



IFWAF/ 3651

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

U.S. Serial No.: 10/047,208 )  
Filed: January 14, 2002 ) Group Art Unit: 3651  
Applicant: Akira Shiohara ) Examiner: Valenza, Joseph E.  
Title: Article Joining Control Method ) Docket No.: 2718.3070.001

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**Response After Final Action**

**Introductory Comments**

In response to the Office Action of February 18, 2004, amendment is hereby made as follows: